Licence fee/royalty for railway book-stalls

4058. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) what is the amount of licence fee/royalty fixed per annum to be recovered from unemployed graduates category book-stalls contractors on each Zonal Railway, Division-wise; and

(b) what is the amount of licence fee/royalty fixed per annum to be recovered from all other book-stall contractors, except A.H. Wheeler Company on each Zonal Railway Division

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) A minimum amount of Rs. 250/- per book-stall per annum for an initial period of 3 years and thereafter Rs. 750/- per book-stall per annum is the licence fee fixed from the unemployed graduates category on each zonal railway.

(b) A minimum amount of Rs. 750/- but not exceeding 2½% of the gross turnover is the annual licence fee realised from all other book-stall contractors.

Letters of All India Association of SC/ST to the Railways

4059. SHRI GANDHI AZAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of letters sent from 16th April, 2001, till date, by the All India Association for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes & Physically Handicapped People's Upliftment (R), to the Minister of Railways/Secretary by post/registered post;

(b) the details of demands raised in these letters and the action taken by the Department,

(c) what action has been taken, thereon;

(d) the reasons for not replying till now; and

(e) by when action on demands would be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (e) All India Association for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes & Physically Handicapped People's Upliftment (R) vide their reminder letter No. AIASPU/118/2002 dated 27.3.2002 have drawn

attention to their original references dated 27.4.2001 followed by other 6 reminders which do not appear to have been received in Railways Board's office as per records available. However, it appears from their reminder letter dated 27.3.2002 that the said Association's demand is to issue passes to their top representative which can not be given being the said Association not recognized.

It has been further alleged in the above mentioned letter that the letters being received from individual SCs/STs are not considered by this office. It is stated that in order to redress the grievances of SCs and STs, complaints registers are available at all the Stations and offices. Further letters/ representations received from MPs/MLAs, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and through proper channel regarding their recruitment/promotion/transfer and other service matters are examined keeping in view the extant instructions/rules of reservations etc. and necessary action taken However, giving reply to any unrecognized Association is not mandatory.

Crime and robberies in trains

4060. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that crime and robberies in running trains are increasing gradually;

(b) how many such cases have been reported during the last year;

(c) the number of cases which have been solved; and

(d) what steps are being taken to tighten security in trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS : (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) "policing" being a State subject, prevention and detection of crime on Railways including running trains is the Constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. The cases of crime on railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP). As per information available with this Ministry, crime including robbery has increased during the year 2001 as compared to 2000. 11798 cases were registered by the Government Railways Police during 2001.